

spiritual counterfeits project

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Mr. Jim Sire
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Dear Jim,

A little something for your reading pleasure. Be sure to "Read Slowly."

The manuscript is a blend of the SCP monograph, The God-Men, and new additional research. We have double checked facts, references and interviews for water tightness and accuracy. It is squeaky clean.

We have weighed the merit of assessing Witness Lee again and believe that the work is warranted. The Local Church does not receive high visibility in the media, although the Los Angeles Times has run a column on them this winter (see enclosed). Most of the American notoriety achieved by Lee comes through the quiet but disconcerting effort that Local Church people put into "sheep stealing" from small churches and college fellowships. This manuscript is designed to meet the needs of folks besieged by such aggressive actions.

A second, intriguing reason to publish this work is the current status of the Local Church itself. Witness Lee is 74 years old and is miffed because of Max Rapoport's defection. There will be no solid driving hand to guide the Local Church should Lee die in the next few years. Rapoport and other expatriots believe that the Local Church would totally splinter, its members being dispersed into our culture with a great deal of individual disorientation and personal loss. This manuscript may provide a reference for many Local Church members, should this situation materialize.

Related to this scenario is the possibility of a Local Church shut down even while Lee is alive. A number of defectors, who have opted for a more biblical world and life view, are encouraging Local Church members to drop out. The internal pressures that Lee is resorting to, and the external strife they are experiencing may cause it to topple. Rapoport thinks that, should this manuscript (particularly the sociological section) find itself in the hands of Local Church people, it may contribute to the Local Church's demise.

So much for the sales pitch!

The section of the History that details the Local Church's finances and business